

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SCEM-02 SCI-06 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 EA-11

ACDA-19 CIEP-02 SAJ-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 STR-08 MC-02

/219 W

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O R 051300Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8846

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, UR

SUBJECT: TIKKI KAUL ON INDO-US RELATIONS AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR KAUL HAS HAD A BUSY TWO DAYS WITH A LUNCH FOR US CORRESPONDENTS AND PRESS BACKGROUNDER JANUARY 3 AND A PUBLIC TALK AND TELEVISION INTERVIEW JANUARY 4. ALL DEALT WITH INDO-US RELATIONS. KAUL STRUCK A POSITIVE TONE THROUGHOUT, APPEALING FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, AND EMPHASIZING IN PARTICULAR HIS CONFIDENCE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND PROSPECTS FOR INDO-US COOPERATION IN TRADE, COAL TECHNOLOGY, AND OIL EXPLORATION. HE CLAIMED ON TELEVISION THAT BREZHNEV AGREED DURING HIS VISIT HERE TO A CONFERENCE OF LITTORAL

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STATES AND OTHER POWERS INTERESTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT

THE US WAS CONSIDERING THE IDEA (PARAGRAPH 5) END SUMMARY.

1. ADDRESSING A CAPACITY CROWD THAT INCLUDED A NUMBER OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS AT THE INDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, KAUL SAID PROSPECTS WERE BRIGHT FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS AND DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US. MAJOR AND MINOR IRRITANTS WERE OUT OF THE WAY. KAUL BASED HIS ASSESSMENT ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US, ASSURANCES BY US OFFICIALS, AND THE DESIRES OF THE TWO PEOPLES. THE TILT WAS OVER. THE US HAD RECOGNIZED THE NEW SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT. HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE US WOULD NOT SUPPLY LETHAL WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN ALTHOUGH SPARES WOULD BE SUPPLIED UNDER PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS.

THE PL-480 AGREEMENT HAD REMOVED A MAJOR IRRITANT. THE US DID NOT REGARD THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY AS A BAR TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA. THE US WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE SIZE AND POTENTIAL OF INDIA AND NOW HAD A BETTER APPRECIATION OF INDIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICIES. KAUL PRAISED SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, WHO HELPED BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE PL-480 PROBLEM AND APPEALED FOR IMPROVED US-INDIAN RELATIONS. WITH KISSINGER'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION THERE WAS NO STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE PATH OF PROGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, KAUL CRITICIZED US CORRESPONDENTS FOR THEIR REPORTING ON INDIA IN THE US PRESS.

2. OUR PRESS CONTACTS IDENTIFY KAUL AS THE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE CITED IN A JANUARY 5 FRONT PAGE "NATIONAL HERALD" ARTICLE HEADLINED "INDO-US TIES TAKE TURN FOR THE BETTER". THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS THAT FOLLOWING THE PL-480 AGREEMENT, THE NEXT PHASE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS OF CLOSER INDO-US RELATION IN TRADE, COMMERCE, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE US COULD COOPERATE WITH INDIA IN THE FIELDS OF COAL TECHNOLOGY, OIL EXPLORATION, FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, AND TRADE IN MARINE PRODUCTS, BICYCLES, AND SPARE PARTS. EFFORTS WERE UNDERWAY TO RELAX QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORT OF INDIAN GOODS. INDIA HAD INVITED TENDERS FOR OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND SOME US FIRMS HAD SENT IN BIDS. THE "STATESMAN" CARRIED SIMILAR BACKGROUND, NOTING THAT THE BEST OFFSHORE OIL TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD IS FROM US COMPANIES AND THERE APPEARED TO BE NO RESERVATIONS IN NEW DELHI TO TAKING US ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TERMS WERE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. IN HIS TELEVISION INTERVIEW, KAUL SAW NO PROBLEM IF THE US IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CHINA. IF INDIA WAS FRIENDLY WITH THE USSR IT WOULD DO NO HARM TO THE US AS DR. KISSINGER HAD SAID PUBLICLY. THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA AND THE US TO EACH OTHER LAY PRIMARILY IN THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE THOUGHT DR. KISSINGER'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE ENERGY CRISIS WAS SIGNIFICANT AND BELIEVED THE OIL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES

SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND EXPLORE OTHER AVENUES OF ENERGY.

4. ASKED ABOUT US ARMS SUPPLY POLICIES TOWARD THE AREA, KAUL SAID HE HAD TOLD THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT INJECTION OF FOREIGN ARMS CAN LEAD TO AN ARMS RACE AND TENSION. THE US HOPED THAT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAN AND THAT INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND BANGLADESH WOULD NORMALIZE RELATIONS. IF ARMS GOING TO IRAN WERE TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN, THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE MILITARY TRENDS THERE. THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD ASSURED INDIA THAT ANY ARMS IT SOLD TO IRAN CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD COUNTRIES WITHOUT US CONSENT. INDIA WOULD HAVE TO BE VIGILANT IN VIEW OF PAST EXPERIENCES , IMPROVEMENT OF

RELATIONS WITH IRAN COULD LEAD TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

5. KAUL SAID HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD NOT BECOME A BATTLEGROUND FOR MILITARY RIVALRY OF GREAT POWERS. " AND I SAID THAT MR. BREZHNEV IN HIS RECENT VISIT AGREED TO THE IDEA OF A CONFERENCE OF THE LITTORAL STATES AND OTHER POWERS INTERESTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. AND I THINK THE US ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING THIS IDEA OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE TO EVOLVE SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH GREAT POWER MILITARY RIVALRY CAN BE AVOIDED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND PARTICULARLY THE INJECTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT THIS WILL TAKE TIME. IN EUROPE THE PEACE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EFFORTS. SO I AM NOT PESSIMISTIC." (NOTE THIS IS FROM OUR TAPE OF THE INTERVIEW.)
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE00229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740160/aaaacexg.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <24 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIKKI KAUL ON INDO-US RELATIONS AND THE INDIAN OCEAN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR KAUL HAS HAD A BUSY TWO DAYS WITH A LUNCH
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, IN, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005